



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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CAAL  
04/03/2008  
Agenda Item 10

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

April 3, 2008

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

**From:** Dr. Gail M. Morrison, Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing *GMM*

### **Consideration of Proposed Changes to CHE Policy for Approval of Specialized Accreditation Agencies**

Attached you will find a draft copy of changes the staff is proposing to the *CHE Policy for Approval of Specialized Accreditation Agencies*. The proposed changes update the policy to reflect current practice, modify the approval process, and clarify the application of existing processes and practice under the *Policy*.

Substantive changes in the proposed policy revision include:

1. Revisions in Item 1 to remove references to outdated IPEDS reporting requirements;
2. The addition of language in Item 4 to allow for staff approval of accrediting agencies if the agency meets the requirements set forth in Item 3 and there is consensus for approval among the institutions;
3. Revisions in Items 5 and 6 to reflect the fact that the Commission does not require accreditation of programs other than those for teacher preparation.

## **Recommendation**

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission the proposed changes to *CHE Policy for Approval of Specialized Accreditation Agencies*.

## CHE Guidelines Policy for Approval of Specialized Accreditation Agencies

1. The Commission on Higher Education's (CHE) list of approved accrediting agencies consists of those agencies for which one or more academic programs are currently ~~accreditable in~~ included in the *List of National Institutional and Specialized Accrediting Bodies Recognized by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education* and posted on the Commission's website.
1. ~~South Carolina public institution as reported on U. S. Department of Education FORM IPEDS IC-1 (6-1-94). This reporting form is used for both ACT 255 of 1992 and Act 359 of 1996 submissions.~~
2. Petitions to add or delete accrediting agencies from the Commission's list may be submitted to the Director of the CHE Commission's -Division of Academic Affairs and Licensing twice each year by any public institution in South Carolina or by the Commission staff on the schedule outlined below:

Action	Dates: Cycle 1	Dates: Cycle 2
Petition submitted to Academic Affairs	December 1	August 1
Petitions circulated to institutions	December	August
Institutions identify affected programs; provide commentary on whether acceptance should be granted	March 1	October 1
Consideration by <u>Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP)</u>	Spring Meeting	Fall Meeting
Consideration by <u>Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAA&amp;L)</u>	Summer Meeting	Winter Meeting
Consideration by CHE	July/September	March

3. An accrediting body is eligible for Commission approval if:
  - A. it is approved by the U. S. Department of Education; or
  - B. it is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation; or
  - C. licensure/certification in South Carolina requires graduation from a program holding such specialized accreditation.

4. If an accrediting body meets the necessary requirements in #3, and if there is no institutional objection at the end of the institutional review period and subsequent Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) meeting, Commission staff shall have the authority to approve the accrediting body and add it to the Commission's list of approved accrediting agencies.
5. When a new accrediting agency is added to the Commission list, institutions with existing programs ~~accreditable by the new agency have up to five years to~~ before being required to report the ~~gain accreditation status for~~ of those programs. Institutions must notify the Commission's Division of Academic Affairs and Licensing upon achieving successful accreditation.
6. When the Commission approves a new academic program that is creditable under an agency on the CHE list, the new program institution will have up to five years before being required to report the accreditation status of the program. Institutions must notify the Commission's Division of Academic Affairs and Licensing upon achieving successful accreditation for a new program.  
~~to gain accreditation through the appropriate agency and report this accreditation to the Commission's Division of Academic Affairs and Licensing. However, in cases where accreditation is achieved prior to the end of the five-year window, institutions may notify CHE of accreditation at any time within the window.~~
7. If the Commission lists two (or more) recognized accreditation-accrediting agencies for a single discipline (e.g., business administration, nursing), institutions may choose one either agency for accreditation purposes. No institution will be expected to hold specialized accreditation from two agencies for the same discipline.

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